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Message Text

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45
ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00

PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20 SPM-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /150 W
---------- 006377
R 011300Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7327
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: SHIPMENT OF GRAIN TO GAO VIA COTONOU/PARAKOU/
NIAMEY

AFDROUGHT

REF: STATE 230994

1. DISCUSSED PROPOSED ROUTING OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO
GAO WITH LGA DIRGEN SAMAKE TODAY. HE CONSIDERS USE
THIS ROUTE BOTH VALUABLE AND VIABLE METHOD FORWARDING
GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO GAO AFTER RIVER TRANSPORT SEASON ENDS.

2. SAMAKE SAYS TWENTY-FIVE TON TRUCKS CAN PASS OVER
ENTIRE ROUTE DURING DRY SEASON, I.E. FROM END RIVER
TRANSPORT SEASON IN JANUARY THROUGH MAY. DURING WET
SEASON A TWENTY-KILOMETER SECTION OF ROAD IN ABEZENGA AREA
AT NIGER-MALI BORDER IS INUNDATED AND TRUCKS HAVE TO
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DETOUR INLAND. THAT SECTION IS VERY SANDY. TRUCKS

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WITH REDUCED LOAD, HOWEVER, COULD PASS EVEN IN WET SEASON. THERE IS SERIOUSNEED FOR REALIGNMENT AND IMPROVEMENT THIS 20-KM SECTION.

3. SAMAKE IS SEEKING GET ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA TO DO STUDY OF SECONDARY ROADS IN LGA REGION AND OF MINIMAL IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO MAKE THE MORE IMPORTANT ONES PASSABLE YEAR-ROUND. WITHOUT MENTIONING USAID INTEREST, SAMAKE WILL CONTACT MALIAN PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY TO FIND OUT MAXIMUM LOAD WHICH CAN PASS OVER NIAMEY/GAO ROUTE DURING WET SEASON. HE WILL ALSO SEEK ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF WORK NEEDED TO MAKE ROUTE PASSABLE FOR 25-TON TRUCKS YEAR-ROUND. HIS OFFICE WILL INFORM US OF REPLY. LGA DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR REPAIR, BUT WOULD BE HAPPY PASS PROPOSAL TO USAID FOR FINANCING.

4. SAMAKE ENVISAGES NO POLITICAL/BORDER PROBLEMS IN SENDING SHIPMENTS VIA THIS ROUTE, SINCE HE SAYS EVERYONE SHOULD BE WILLING FACILITATE TRANSIT OF EMERGENCY CARGO.

5. SAMAKE LEAVES OUAGADOUGOU TODAY FOR MONTH'S TRIP TO LOME, ABIDJAN, BRUSSELS, ROME, AND PARIS. BULLEN

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